IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 8-13 without prejudice:

1. (Previously Presented)   A system for tracking descriptive information about a changeable article:

a machine-readable label (MRL) attachable to articles;

one or more processors connectable to a MRL reader and programmed to create an association between data stored in an MRL and descriptive data and store said association in a data store;

said descriptive data including a changeable characteristic of a given article and selectively also profile data characterizing a user and/or user preferences;

said one or more processors being programmed to scan said MRL and permit a user to complete a transaction involving said given article including reading said descriptive data in said data store, said transaction being responsive to said descriptive data.

2.   (Original) A system as in claim 1, wherein said one or more processors are programmed to accept update data indicating a change in said given article and to update said data describing said given article such that when said one or more processors scan said MRL and permit said user to complete a further transaction involving said given article, said transaction is responsive to change in said given article.

3.   (Original) A system as in claim 2, wherein said change is a change of quantity of a material of said article.

4. (Previously Presented) A system as in claim 1, wherein said descriptive data includes a quantity of material of said article.

5. (Previously Presented) A system as in claim 1, wherein said one or more processors are connectable to be controlled at a terminal such that a maker of said article can at least partially create said descriptive data by inputting data into said terminal.

6.   (Original) A system as in claim 1, further comprising a scale including a MRL reader, wherein said one or more processors are programmed to accept update data from said scale, said update data including a change in weight of said given article.

7. (Original) A system as in claim 1, further comprising a device for measuring a change in said given article, said device including a MRL reader, wherein said one or more processors are programmed to accept update data from said device, said update data including a change in said given article measured by said device.

8-13 (Cancelled)

14. (Original) A method for tracking descriptive information about a changeable article, comprising the steps of:

 attaching a machine-readable label (MRL) to an article;

 said MRL having a unique code;

 storing a correlation between descriptive information about said article and said unique code in a data store; and

 reading said unique code to obtain at least a portion of said descriptive information using said correlation in said data store;

 deleting said correlation after the passage of a predetermined period of time after said step of storing.

15. (Original) A method as in claim 14, wherein said descriptive information includes an initial quantity or size of said article.

16.   (Original) A method as in claim 14, further comprising the step of reading said unique code, looking up said correlation responsively to said unique code, and modifying at least a portion of said descriptive information responsively to said correlation in said data store.

17.   (Original) A method as in claim 16, wherein said descriptive information includes an initial quantity or size of said article.